

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /069 W

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O P 011246Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 102

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: APRIL 1, THE 91ST DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF PHNOM PENH 5821

1.SUMMARY. PRESIDENT LON NOL DEPARTED COUNTRY MID-DAY APRIL 1. FANK FORCES AT NEAK LUONG ARE UNDER EXTREMELY HEAVY PRESSURE AND THE KC NOW CONTROL THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY. THE KC FIRED 36 107MM ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG BY EARLY AFTERNOON APRIL 1, BUT THE AIRLIFT CONTINUED. FANK'S POSITION IN THE SECTOR SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH HAS DETERIORATED WITH THE WITHDRAWAL FROM AN IMPORTANT BASSAC RIVER ISLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE KC CONTROL THE THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY OF NEAK LUONG ON THE LOWER MEKONG WITH FANK FORCES RESTRICTED TO AN AREA ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY TWO KILOMETERS SQUARE. THE KC EVIDENTLY ARE CONCENTRATING THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST NEAK LUONG IN AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO ELIMINATE IT.

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BANAM, WHICH IS CUT OFF FROM NEAK LUONG, IS UNDER

LESS HEAVY PRESSURE AND IS HOLDING. THE KC TACTIC IS EVIDENTLY TO TAKE ONE TOWN AT A TIME AND THEY HAVE CHOSEN NEAK LUONG FIRST.

2. BY EARLY AFTERNOON APRIL 1, THE KC HAD FIRED 36 107MM ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES REPORTED, AND THE AIRLIFT PROCEEDED SATISFACTORILY. ANOTHER ROCKET HIT IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA NEAR THE AIRPORT. IN THE CITY, THERE WERE AT LEAST FOUR ROCKETS REPORTED, SEVERAL OF THEM IMPACTING NEAR THE EMBASSY AND WOUNDING TWO PERSONS.

3. ANOTHER PROBLEM AREA FOR FANK IS DEVELOPING IN THE SOUTHEAST SECTOR IN THE BASSAC CORRIDOR. THE POSITION OF UNDER-STRENGTH GOVERNMENT FORCES THERE IS NOW ERODING AS UNITS ARE GRADUALLY BBEING PUSHED BACK. THE LATEST AND MOST SERIOUS EXAMPLE IS THE WITHDRAWAL BY TWO BATTALIONS FROM A BASSAC RIVER ISLAND THAT WAS GAINED ONLY AFTER VERY HARD FIGHTING LAST FALL. AS A RESULT, OTHER FANK POSITIONS ARE NOW MORE VULNERABLE TO KC PRESSURE.

4. THERE WAS LITTLE REPORTED CHANGE ELSEWHERE AROUND PHNOM PENH OR IN THE PROVINCES.
DEAN

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